

Message from the Director

I am pleased to present the *Chief Financial Officer's Annual Report: Fiscal Year 2002* for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR). This report—which was prepared under the auspices of our Financial Management Office, pursuant to the Chief Financial Officers Act of 1990, the Government Management Reform Act of 1994, and related statutes—details our financial statements and practices and provides an overview of the many essential public health programs and services CDC and ATSDR provide the American people.

CDC and ATSDR are part of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and strive to support and follow the objectives, policies, and programs of HHS, with regard to both public health and to business practices. We also fully support the President's Management Agenda, a set of governmentwide initiatives announced during FY 2001. Because the President's Management Agenda reflects effective business practices, CDC/ATSDR management is constantly striving to ensure that we comply with this agenda.

CDC and ATSDR achieved a significant financial milestone for fiscal year 2002 by receiving—for the fifth consecutive year—an unqualified or “clean” opinion on our financial statements. We are justifiably proud of this accomplishment, and our commitment to providing superior financial stewardship for the public funds entrusted to us underscores our determination to protect the health and safety of Americans, provide credible information, and promote health through vital partnerships.

Having excellent business practices and dynamic financial management are crucial for us to continue reducing death, illness, and disability in the United States and throughout the world. We must also strive to improve our agency's effectiveness and accountability to keep pace with our increasingly varied responsibilities to the nation, including public health terrorism preparedness and response as we tackle other causes of death, illness, and disability such as HIV/AIDS, infectious diseases, injuries, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, birth defects, environmental hazards, and obesity.



Our expanded responsibilities require a new approach to leadership and management that allows the agency to balance emerging issues with its vision for safer, healthier people in every community. To better prepare us for the enormous challenges we face, I have asked our senior management staff to focus on science, service, systems, and strategy. The overarching goals of this collective focus are to ensure that we do the following:

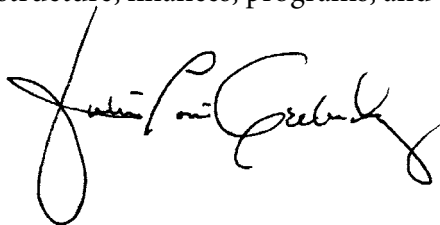
- practice *science* that is evidence-based and grounded in sound peer-reviewed research.
- provide efficient *service* to meet the needs of our partners and customers.
- fine-tune and manage our *systems* so that we use our personnel, technology, and information efficiently to achieve results.
- set aside staff and resources to ensure that our *strategies* prepare us for future challenges.

Working toward those priorities will enable CDC and ATSDR to continue refining our business practices and strengthening our public health activities and initiatives to ensure that we continue to recoup our nation's investment at home and abroad.

The Reports Consolidation Act of 2000 requires an assertion on the information contained in this report. On the basis of my understanding of the work performed by our independent auditors, internal agency reviews, and CDC management controls, I believe the information contained in this report to be reasonably complete and reliable.

For more information about how CDC's programs verify and validate performance data, including the completeness and reliability of those data, I refer you to the report *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's FY 2004 GPRA Annual Performance Plan, FY 2003 Final GPRA Annual Performance Plan, and FY 2002 GPRA Annual Performance Report*.

I welcome your interest in CDC and ATSDR, both in our fiscal and our scientific work, and I invite you to read this report for more information about our organizational structure, finances, programs, and accomplishments during FY 2002.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julie Louise Gerberding". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Julie Louise Gerberding, MD, MPH
Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
and Administrator, Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry